

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 07760 271725Z
ACTION HEW-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 OES-07 SSO-00 NSCE-00 SS-15
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FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2379

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ROME 7760

PASS TO HOHMAN/HEW

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OVIP IT
SUBJECT: CALIFANO VISIT - FRIULI DINNER

REF: TELCON SILVA/HOHMAN APRIL 27; ROME 7747; STATE 65234

1. FOLLOWING SUGGESTED LANGUAGE REPLACES THAT CONTAINED PARA
4 REFTEL.

BEGIN TEXT

I AM HONORED TO BE WITH YOU TONIGHT AND FLATTERED TO ACCEPT
ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES THIS MAGNIFICANT
MEDALLION FROM THE PEOPLE OF THE FRIULI.

WE ARE HERE THIS EVENING BOTH TO COMMEMORATE AND TO CELEBRATE:

-- TO COMMEMORATE THE TRAGEDY THAT STRUCK THE PEOPLE OF THE
FRIULI TWO YEARS AGO;

-- AND TO CELEBRATE THE INDOMITABLE WILL OF THE PEOPLE OF
THE FRIULI WHOSE SPIRIT AND INDUSTRY HAVE ENABLED THEM TO
OVERCOME THE DEVASTATION INFLICTED BY THE FORCES OF NATURE.

ON THIS OCCASION, BOTH SOLEMN AND AUSPICIOUS, I AM PARTICULARLY
PLEASED TO COMMUNICATE TO YOU A MESSAGE I BRING FROM THE PRESIDENT
OF THE UNITED STATES:

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" ON THE OCCASION OF THE SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF THE EARTHQUAKE
WHICH BROUGHT SUCH TERRIBLE DESTRUCTION INTO THEIR LIVES AND
BROUGHT DEATH TO SO MANY OF THEIR LOVED ONES, I WANT TO EXTEND
TO THE PEOPLE OF THE FRIULI MY OWN GREETINGS AND THE GREETINGS
OF THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES. THE COURAGE AND ENTERPRISE OF
THE PEOPLE OF FRIULI IN FACING THE CRUEL ADVERSITY OF WHICH
NATURE IS CAPABLE IS AN INSPIRATION TO PEOPLE EVERYWHERE.

"WE AMERICANS ARE ESPECIALLY PROUD THAT WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO CONTRIBUTE TO SOME DEGREE IN THE GREAT WORK OF RECONSTRUCTION IN THE FRIULI. THE UNITED STATES IS COMMITTED TO COME TO THE AID OF VICTIMS OF DISASTERS ANYWHERE WE CAN. BUT HERE THERE IS A SPECIAL CONSIDERATION. THE PROJECTS MADE POSSIBLE BY FUNDS PROVIDED BY THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES FOR SCHOOLS FOR THE CHILDREN OF THE FRIULI AND HOMES FOR ITS ELDERLY REPRESENT, IN A WAY, OUR FAITH IN THE FUTURE OF THIS IMPORTANT REGION OF ITALY AND A TRIBUTE TO THE PEOPLE THAT MADE THAT REGION WHAT IT IS. THE AMERICAN CONTRIBUTION TO THE RECONSTRUCTION IN THE FRIULI IS A SMALL MEASURE TOO OF OUR GRATITUDE FOR THE CONTRIBUTION WHICH THE FRIULI AND THE SONS OF THE FRIULI WHO EMIGRATED TO THE UNITED STATES HAVE MADE TO THE ENRICHMENT OF OUR NATIONAL LIFE.

"JIMMY CARTER"

I ACCEPT THIS MEDALLION WITH THE SENSE OF GRATITUDE EXPRESSED BY PRESIDENT CARTER. AND IT IS IN RECOGNITION OF THE TIES THAT BIND OUR TWO NATIONS TOGETHER, THE TIES OF BLOOD AND COMMON HERITAGE, THAT I WILL CONVEY TO PRESIDENT CARTER THE VERY MOVING SENTIMENTS EXPRESSED HERE THIS EVENING. END TEXT. GARDNER

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